

Message Text

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17

ACTION ORM-02

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FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 524

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF (TRAN VAN THAM)

SUBJECT: BIO CAT I VIETNAMESE REFUGEE: TRAN VAN THAM, FAMILY OF 3

(THIS IS NOT A ROUTINE BIO MESSAGE. SEE PARAGRAPH 4.)

1. TRAN VAN THAM, MALE

A. BUDHIST

B. 15 FEB 1958, CANTHO

C. 6 YEARS GRADE SCHOOL

D. NONE

E. FLUENT IN VIETNAMESE

F. (A) SISTER

(2) TRAN THI MAI WATTERS

(3) SUBIC BAY, PHILIPPINES

(4) UNK

G. NONE

2. LE THI THU OANH, FEMALE, NIECE OF NO. 1, 16 JUL 68, DALAT

3. LE QUEC KHANH, MALE, NEPHEW OF NO. 1, 18 AUG 70, SAIGON

4. DURING APRIL 1975, SEVERAL THOUSAND VIETNAMESE WERE
EVACUATED FROM SAIGON TO CLARK AIR BASE IN THE PHILIPPINES.
INCLUDED IN THIS GROUP WERE TRAN THI MAI WATTERS (WIFE OF
HOWARD J. WATTERS WHO IS MEMBER OF U.S. NAVY NOW STATIONED
AT SUBIC NAVAL STATION); TRAN VAN THAM (HER BROTHER);
LE THI THU OANH (HER NIECE); AND LE QUOC KHANH (NEW HENPHEW).

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ON 6 JUN 1975 COL. NILO L. OLEGARIO (PHILIPPINE MILITARY

LIAISON OFFICER AT CLARK AB) RELEASED THE FOUR VIETNAMESE INTO CUSTODY OF WATTERS TO PROCEED TO SUBIC NAVAL STATION QUOTE SUBJECT TO THE CONDITION THAT PROOF WILL BE SUBMITTED THAT THE CHILDREN ARE ADMISSABLE INTO THE U.S. AND THAT THE U.S. NAVY GUARANTEES THEIR DEPARTURE FROM THE PHILIPPINES UPON TERMINATION OF THE TOUR OF DUTY OF JO2 HOWARD J. WATTERS UNQUOTE. EMBASSY KNEW NOTHING OF THE ARRANGEMENT UNTIL WATTERS APPLIED RECENTLY FOR VISAS FOR HIS WIFE AND HER RELATIVES TO GO TO U.S. EMBASSY IS PROCESSING WIFE FOR IR-1. NO PROBLEM FORESEEN. THE NIECE AND NEPHEW COULD CONVEIVABLY APPLY AT VIETNAMESE NONPREFERENCE (NOT TO BE GAINFULLY EMPLOYED), BUT EASTERN HEMISPHERE NP NUMBERS WOULD NOT BE AVAILABLE BEFORE WATTERS IS DUE TO DEPART IN NOV 1976. EMBASSY REQUESTS CAT IV AUTHORIZATION FOR ALL THREE REFUGEES TO ENABLE WATTERS TO TAKE THEM AS HIS MILITARY DEPENDENTS WHEN HE DEPARTS FOR NEXT ASSIGNMENT (LOCATION AS YET UNKNOWN). ALTHOUGH WATTERS HAS ACTED IRRESPONSIBLY BY NOT INFORMING MILITARY AND EMBASSY SOONER ABOUT HIS SITUATION AND BY AGREEING TO CONDITIONS ON CUSTODY OF FAMILY HE WAS UNABLE TO COMPLY WITH, EMBASSY WISHES TO AVOID SURFACING THIS PROBLEM WITH GOP DURING TIME OF BASE NEGOTIATIONS AS IT WOULD ONLY SERVE AS EXAMPLE OF UNCONTROLLED ENTRY INTO PHILIPPINES THROUGH BASES; AN ISSUE WHICH IS SENSITIVE TO GOP.

5. IF REASSIGNED IN U.S., WATTERS IS WILLING TO SPONSOR AND PROVIDE SUPPORT TO HIS FAMILY. (HE RECEIVES \$596 MONTHLY) IF HE IS REASSIGNED OUTSIDE THE U.S., SPONSOR WOULD BE JESSE EISENMAN, 6009 LINDY LANE, WATANGA, TEXAS 76148.

6. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S DECISION ON THIS CASE SOONEST.
SULLIVAN

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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TAGS: SREF, (TRAN VAN THAM)
To: STATE
Type: TE
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